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## **Honda launches broadband push**

**Timothy Roberts**

U.S. Rep. Mike Honda, D-San Jose, says he will introduce the Jumpstart Broadband Act in the House of Representatives in an effort to expand the use of broadband Internet connections.

The legislation is the counterpart to a measure introduced in the U.S. Senate by California Sen. Barbara Boxer, who unveiled it last month at a Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group luncheon.

Mr. Honda spoke in San Francisco at the Wireless Communications Association International's Technical and Business Expo.

The legislation is an attempt to get around the logjam created by the cable and telephone companies, who can't agree on the best way to encourage growth in broadband service. The bill would build on the success of WiFi, which broadcasts a high speed Internet connection in an office, home or coffeehouse.

Specifically the bill would require the FCC to make more broadcast spectrum available to wireless broadband devices. Mr. Honda would like the FCC to allocate 255 megahertz in the 5 GigaHertz band strictly for unlicensed use by wireless broadband devices.

"Federal telecommunications officials need to recognize that wireless technologies and services, especially those operating in the unlicensed portion of the spectrum, hold great potential to address the broadband juggernaut that Washington seems mired in," Mr. Honda said Monday.

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